



⁵The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷So if you worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'" Luke 4:5-8

KINGDOMS

The Confession

1) Read Deuteronomy Chapter 6 and then reflect on the following question: In Luke 4, Jesus responds to all of the devil's temptations by quoting scripture from the book of Deuteronomy. For example, Jesus' response in the passage above (Luke 4:5-8) comes from Deuteronomy 6:13. Deuteronomy chapter 6, specifically, includes the essential confession of the people of Israel. This 'great commandment' is referred to as the *shema* and is found in Deuteronomy 6:4. In which ways does Jesus use this confession to resist the devil's temptations?

Temptations

2) In Luke 4:6, the devil offers Jesus temptations full of "authority" and "splendor". What temptations exist in your life that offer these same attractions?

3) Would one be able to surrender to these temptations (of question #2) and still follow the "great commandment" of Deuteronomy 6:4 or are they contradicting?

Thy Kingdom Come

4) Under temptation, it can be challenging to 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.' And yet, that is our calling as God's people. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus shares with us the words to pray when we are lured by temptations. Read this prayer in Luke 11:1-4. How do the words of the Lord's prayer offer hope and guidance in the midst of the devil's temptations?

Closing Prayer: Pray the words of the Lord's prayer, with special attention to opening yourself up to *God's kingdom*, worshiping the Lord your God and serving him only.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.